

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Prayer: Private Prayer

APPLY // VARIOUS PSALMS

Take some time to review & apply the latest sermon.

1. Give examples of the “God centeredness of God” from Scripture.
2. How does the “God centeredness of God” orient your view of the world?
3. How does God centeredness orient our expectations in prayer?
4. How does God centeredness orient the supplications/requests of our prayers?
5. From the Psalms, find some examples of people “answering God” in prayer as life happens. Make some observations as to how they pray.
6. How does Jesus make prayer possible in the Gospel? How should that inform not only how we pray, but what we pray?

STUDY // MATTHEW 6:5-13

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Note: Healthy Bible study asks three questions:

- **Observation:** What do I see?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** Why does it matter?

The questions below focus primarily on observation and application. The following week we’ll turn our attention to more application oriented questions.

1. Read Matthew 6:1-13. In one or two sentences, summarize Jesus teaching in these verses.
2. Focusing on verses 5-Notice that twice in this passage, Jesus says, “When you pray...” How does this inform the way we should think about our prayer lives?
3. Discuss how Jesus instructs his disciples regarding how NOT to pray.
 - a. What is a hypocrite?
 - b. What are these hypocrites doing?
 - c. Why do you think they are doing what they are doing?
 - d. How are the Gentiles praying?
 - e. Why are they praying like this?
4. Jesus says the hypocrites have “received their reward.” What does that mean? How does this phrase/idea fit into the context of this passage?
5. Discuss how Jesus instructs his disciples to pray.
6. What does Jesus mean by “your Father...will reward you.”?
7. Do Jesus words here, to pray in secret, mean we should never pray publicly with others? Discuss.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How is your prayer life?